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MESSRS. JAMES A. HEARN & SON of 22 to 30 West 14th Street have among their latest importations French velveteen table covers in soft, rich colors, with broad borders showing the daintiest hues imaginable, with embroidered effects of trailing vines and leaves and flowers.

THE Library of the Young Men's Christian Association, at 23rd Street and Fourth Avenue, New York, contains a large collection of books on decoration, in French, German and English. Young men engaged as designers can have access to the library, whether members or not. The library is open every evening. Complete files of the *Revue des Arts Decoratifs* and *THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER* are to be found here.

MR. JAMES E. SCRIBBS, senior proprietor of the Detroit *Evening News*, has placed the sum of \$1,000 at the disposal of the trustees of the Detroit Museum of Art to enable them to offer that sum to defray the cost of two years' study in one of the great art schools of Europe, as a prize for the greatest proficiency displayed by any pupil in the Detroit Art Academy in the ensuing year. The school opened in September last and the award will be made at the end of May next. The prize is open to students from all parts of the country. Particulars will be furnished on application to the Secretary, Detroit Museum of Art.

THE following are the standing committees of the National Furniture Manufacturing Association.

FREIGHT COMMITTEE.

Chas. W. Black, Grand Rapids, Mich.
H. N. Davis, St. Louis, Mo.
Chas. L. Garner, Chicago, Ill.
Wm. P. Harding, Williamsport, Pa.
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MESSRS. AUFFERMANN & COMPANY, owing to the steady and rapid growth of their business, have been obliged to remove their "American Wood Staining Works" to a larger factory located at No. 211 East 42nd Street, where they are prepared to transact business with the greatest facility.

The demand for stained woods is increasing every day. Piano manufacturers, cabinet makers, builders and decorators make extensive use of same. Stained wood veneers are the most luxurious veneers in the market. There is no longer any necessity for coating articles of furniture with several coats of paint, when the same color effects can be obtained in natural woods, with their graining showing itself beneath the polished surface. If a person wishes a pale green piano in birds eye maple, or any other wood, to harmonize with the decorations of the room, he can obtain it by means of the Aufferman System of staining woods. Fine hazel wood of a rich cream color now takes the place of wood with cream enamel finish with the added beauty of the wood itself.

MESSRS. C. B. DEMAREST & CO., of 275 Kent Avenue, Brooklyn, manufactures the upholstered chairs with which the entire auditorium and galleries of the new Hyde and Behman's theatre in Brooklyn are seated. These chairs are upholstered in crushed plush of a deep rose color, the seats having Well's Patent Torsion Wire Springs, which appear to be the only even bearing and durable springs ever made for opera chairs and church seats, and of which springs Messrs. Demarest & Co., are sole agents. Their having control of this ideal spring cushion has caused an immense demand for their opera chairs, and they have lately supplied some 20 theatres and churches both in the United States and South America with their admirable chairs. The work turned out by this enterprising

firm is first class in every respect. Each chair is supplied with a spring rack underneath the folding seat for hats, and the back of the seat has a wire shawl holder, which is also used as an umbrella holder. This firm have solved the problem of placing the greatest number of seats in a given space, compatible with individual comfort. They confine themselves to this one business of seating churches, theatres, halls, etc., believing that one thing well done is better than many things poorly done, and they are determined that no one shall excel them in handsome styles, comfort and durability of construction, or in good work at low prices. They have exceptionally good facilities for manufacturing at very light cost, and all of the Grand Trunk line railroads have freight stations within five blocks of their factory, enabling them to load cars for all parts of the United States, without transfer.

DECORATION BY M. H. BIRGE & SONS.

THE manger of the Tremont House in Boston was lately stopping at the St. James Hotel, New York, and being particularly struck with the freshness and novelty of the decorations of the café and dining-room of that well known hostelry, was surprised to learn that the work was entirely executed with the new seasons papers of M. H. Birge & Sons.

The café has the walls decorated with a lacquered canvas paper, the pattern being a large ogee scroll repeat, in blended light buff luster tints, on the old pink ground. The style of the pattern which is in a Grecian effect, harmonizes well with the Empire ceiling above. The ceiling consists of a large panel the border of which, with the corner panels, is reinforced with a heavy beaded moulding in old pink plaster relief. The border consists of a series of panels with interwoven arabesques in pale yellow outlined with old pink by way of border. The centre of each repeat contains an olive green wreath with an old pink ribbon on a blended ground of pale yellow and olive lacquered tints. The colorings are so quiet and the contrasted tints so beautiful that it is a positive pleasure to gaze upon so fine a decoration.

Each corner panel of the border has a large colonial wreath in old pink plastic relief, with flowing ribbons in the same

tint, on an olive and yellow blended ground. The centre, or ceiling ground, is filled with a blended lacquer paper, having a diaper of Empire wreaths of foliage and flowers in olive and pink tints, with an old pink ribbon as a supplementary motive. The entire ornament is on a blended ground of olive and yellow lacquer tints.

The café walls are hung with a choice collection of oil paintings and engravings, making the interior a regular picture gallery. Nothing could better serve for a background to pictures than the buff and old pink wall-paper we have already referred to. There is great repose in the pattern and the entire scene is one of exceeding satisfaction.

SIMPSON, HALL, MILLAR & CO.



THIS firm desire to call the attention of the trade to an elegant, silver plate, teaset, as an illustration of a new and artistic line of

repoussé work that is being manufactured by them. The tea set, of which we illustrate some of the pieces, is only one sample of the many articles manufactured by the firm, which for quality and artistic beauty, at low prices, are with comparison, or competition. The *repoussé* goods are manufactured by the factories of the company at Wallingford, Conn.,



and in every respect equal to hand made goods but are produced by a process which is covered by letters patent that enables them to make the goods at a price which brings them within the reach of everybody. A point worthy of mention is the ease with which these goods may be cleaned. By the use of a Relucent (which is furnished by the firm) they can at all times be made to look like new, and owing to the character of the embossed work, bruises and dents do not mar nearly as much as they do goods of ordinary finish. The New York store is situated at No. 36 East 19th Street.



THE HARDING EMBOSSING PROCESS.

NEW processes and methods in decorative art may be elaborated from time to time, but without ability on the part of the artist to produce artistic effects, such methods may fail to an extent in their mission. A great many methods nowadays simply consist in the reproduction of old ideas in a more economical manner, and but a few of them aim at producing unique and novel effects. Amongst the latter the Harding Process of embossing any known material in decorative relief is a conspicuous example of an entirely new departure in decoration.

Mr. Harding, who is himself a practical decorator, has recently completed a number of important contracts in interior house decoration. There is a desire for very fine artistic relief work on the part of the public in general, and indeed, the interior of a dwelling requires very restrained and well modeled effects, for anything that conveys a feeling of coarseness, of course has no place in such a position. Mr. Harding produces fine traceries from 1-32 to 1/4th of an inch in relief, or higher if desired, with a smooth, round surface. He introduces novel and beautiful effects in friezes and panels, filled with colored plushes, as a ground to receive his applique work. Wall panels in plush, are damaskeened with golden traceries, which from one angle of vision shimmer with rose colored bronzes, change with the angle of vision to rich metallic greens and copper lights, producing under the effects of artificial light indescribably lovely effects. Mr. Harding has apparently discovered the true use of relief work in interior decoration. He can cover the plain surface of an ingrain paper with the most delightful of cobweb traceries, the design for which he has obtained from Japan. The Japanese artists lead the world in the production of artistic arabesques for wall, frieze, ceiling, or panel treatment.

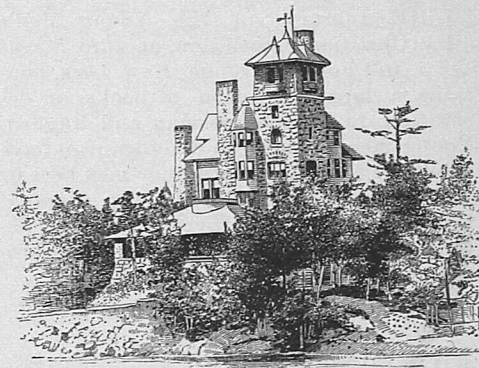
We might here mention that the Japanese artists are equally successful in developing western ideas in decorative art, as well as highly skilled in the execution of their own inimitable traceries. Not only is the flat surface of the ingrain paper thus covered with a most delightful rendering of birds, butter flies, flowers and foliage effects, but the ground itself is coated in various instances with the Harding Metallic Plaster, which, when treated in various bronze effects, resembles a sheet of burnished bronze.

The residence of Mr. J. Harper Smith at Summerville, New Jersey, has just been decorated by the Harding process. The side walls of the hall are covered with a trailing woodbine, springing from behind the door casings and dado mouldings, and spreading freely up the staircase walls to the upper hall. Occasionally a spray of the vine invades the conventional thistle frieze next to the ceiling. The woodbine and vine leaves are in iridescent metallic colors, and amongst the foliage are embossed birds, butterflies and dragon flies. There is no apparent repetition of the design from the first to the third floor, the work being entirely executed in free hand relief, exceedingly delicate and refined. The Harding Embossing Process is meeting with the success it deserves.

ADAMANT WALL PLASTER.

FEW people have any conception of the amount of Adamant Wall Plaster now being used in this country, in fact throughout the world. By the coming of this material, plastering has undergone the same changes and improvements that all materials used in building have. And it is a change which has long been desired, yet never before attained. The unsafe and unstable lime and hair mortar has too long shown its defects. Now comes the first material which fully meets the requirements of a sound and lasting wall. Adamant Wall Plaster comes in bags ready to be taken to any room in a building, and there mixed with water, thus doing away with much of the trouble and expense consequent upon carrying the hod to the work. One of the many very great advantages of Adamant is the fact that it is ready for use any season of the year, thereby enabling masons and plasterers to do their work regardless of the condition of the weather.

In twelve hours after applying the Adamant the woodworkers can follow and put on casings, etc., and no swelling will occur. Houses of 1000 yards can be finished for carpenters in five or six days, or even less if desired. Small and ordinary sized rooms which are desired for occupancy



"CASTLE REST," THOUSAND ISLANDS, N. Y., SUMMER HOME OF HON. GEORGE M. PULLMAN. PLASTERED WITH ADAMANT.

can be finished in one day. Adamant does not chip, crack or pit, is not easily marred as it is a very hard and dense material. It adheres equally well to brick, lath, or iron, and will last as long as the building. Leaks in pipes will not cause it to cleave off, and rats cannot gnaw through it. It can be painted, papered, frescoed, or given any desired decoration or finish.

Its density renders a house cooler in summer and warmer in winter, and it is not easily injured by furniture or chair backs. Adamant has become such a popular plaster that it is now being specified and used on large numbers of prominent buildings and private residences throughout the land. Although less than five years old it has already been placed on upwards of 300,000 buildings of all classes. The best recommendation is the unsolicited testimonials of all who have used it, among whom are some of our most wide awake builders and architects. Adamant is now being manufactured in thirty-five factories throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia.

The companies in this section are the Adamant Manufacturing Co., 309 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, N. Y., and Bennett Building, cor. Fulton and Nassau

Streets, New York City; The Keystone Plaster Company 233 No. 23d Street, Philadelphia, Pa., and Pittsburgh, Pa.; The New England Adamant Company, 21 Federal Street, Boston, Mass.; The Connecticut Adamant Company, 460 Grand Avenue, New Haven, Conn.; and the New Jersey Adamant Manufacturing Company, 401 Passaic Avenue, Harrison, N. J.

JOSEPH WILD & CO.

HARDLY any household nowadays that prides itself upon its artistic furnishings is considered complete without possessing among its most valued contents some specimens of Oriental industry, whether these take the form of curios from Japan, or choice examples of textiles from the looms of India, Persia and Turkey.

Among the best known importers to the United States of these richly colored productions, are Messrs. Joseph Wild & Co., of Worth Street, New York. In their Oriental department the visitor will find every imaginable description of these goods, from the diminutive mat carried by the "faithful" on his way to prayer, ready for him to kneel upon, to magnificent Persian carpets of such proportions that any one of them is sufficient to cover the largest room in the biggest mansion in New York. The designs of these carpets are exceptionally artistic, and range from the brilliant and vividly produced colorings so dear to the Oriental eye, to the moresubdued and murky glooms sought for by Englishmen as harmonizing with their own dreary, murky, atmosphere. Of course the greatest quantity of color tones imported by Messrs. Wild & Co., are those that are most suitable for the American market. The climate of the United States being vastly more brilliant than that of England, naturally induces our people to inquire for the more moderately vivid of hues.

Mr. Edgar, the genial manager of the Oriental department, is a gentleman who has crossed the ocean a great many times on his way to Turkey, Persia and India in search of these textile riches of the East. He is at present showing a line of beautiful Turkey carpets which possess all the well known softness of terture and thickness of pile peculiar to such goods, the prevailing colors being cream, "camel," blue and Turkey red. His stock contains a huge pile of Anatolian rugs, which are especially notable for their rich silky sheen, quiet tones of color, gracefully arranged and centred designs, and for their thickness of pile. They are as soft and comfortable as velvet, which they greatly resemble in appearance.

Somac carpets are well adapted for the furnishing of a tiled hall, lobby, or vestibule. Both modern and antique varieties of these may be seen in Worth Street, in all colors, ranging in size from six feet by five feet, to twelve feet by eight feet. They are beautiful and durable, as well as possessing the advantage of moderate cost. The most expensive fabrics are the fine antique Daghestan and Persian carpets, of which there are a large number of views, the colors of which are a revelation in polychromatic arrangement of details.

Among the fine assortment of carpets in this establishment are real old East India carpets from Masulipatam, rugs from Bussorah, portières from Bagdad, saddle bags from Khiva, rugs from Deccan, Scinde, and Ghiordees. Considering the marvelous durability, as well as the rich and splendid colorings of these fabrics, the prices asked for same are extremely low, and no one possessing the slightest aesthetic taste, with the means to gratify same, will refuse to adorn his home with an Oriental carpet.

HOLIDAY BOOKS.

Houghton, Mifflin & Co., New York and Boston.

"THE SONG OF HIWATHA." By Henry W. Longfellow. Illustrated with 22 Photogravures and 400 Text Illustrations, with Portrait. 8vo, \$6.00.

This beautiful Indian Edda has never before been so beautifully illustrated. The photogravures are by Frederick Remington, whose pencil exhibits a perfect knowledge of Indian life, which with a few deft touches, puts before us all the simple dignity and reality of aboriginal manners and habits on the part of the Indian, with the added grace that only a civilized pencil can portray. The artist has reproduced in his own felicitous manner the customs and legends of the Indian tribes, and has added a new splendor to the poem which is itself full of sad, quiet primitive scenes.

While the photogravures, like the poem itself,

idealizes the Indian and his haunts of woods and waters, the 400 marginal illustrations are realistic representations of Indian garments, weapons, personal accouterments of all kinds, as well as sketches of game and ethnological portraits, the whole forming a perfect museum of Indian curiosities.

This epic ballad of Indian life, which we have all read with avidity in more youthful days is again presented to us, embellished with all the artistic progress of the present times. For a Christmas, or Holiday present, this beautiful book is an ideal gift. It is bound in buckskin of a dark brown or Indian red hue, which has a gold stenciling representing wild fowl rising from a lake, in Japanese style. It is altogether a notable addition to the list of Holiday books.

"THE VISION OF SIR LAUNFAL." By James Russell Lowell, with Portrait and 8 Photogravures. Cloth, \$1.50.

This is a delightful edition of James Russell Lowell's popular poem, "The Vision of Sir Launfal." The designs are by E. S. Garrett, and are in themselves gems of art. The portrait of James Russell Lowell is from the crayon by William Page in 1842, owned by Mrs. Charles F. Briggs. It represents the poet in a feminine aspect, with his flowing hair duly parted in the middle, a style of coiffure which, for men, has now happily become obsolete.

"What is so rare as a day in June" is the subject of the first illustration. The earth is enveloped with a robe of beauty. The placid river is dotted with lillies, and the trees stand serene and happy beneath the perfect sky. The other illustrations are no less beautiful, showing a keen appreciation of Nature in her varying moods. The book is well printed on one side of the paper only, and will form a dainty holiday gift.

L. Prang & Co's. Holiday Publications.

"SUMMER THOUGHTS FOR YULE TIDE." By S. Elger Benet, with illustrations by Louis K. Harlow. Is a finely illustrated Christmas book and is a gem of art. Summer and Winter landscapes are placed on opposite pages with excellent effect. The young people are waiting to get a book like this.

"THE STORY OF A DORY." Told by E. E. Hale, and salted down by F. S. Mathews is a novel little book got up in the shape of a dory with mast, ropes, clews, and anchor. The dory is illustrated with twelve lithographs in the well known style of L. Prang & Co., and as the Christmas book for a boy is the very thing parents are looking for.

"THE SPIRIT OF THE PINE, A CHRISTMAS MASQUE." By Esther B. Tiffany, is a juvenile drama that will add greatly to the enjoyment of young people at Christmas Tide.

"PLAYING SCHOOL." By Mrs Ida Waugh, is a fine example of Prang's Fine Art Pictures. It is a lithograph mounted on a card board frame which is decorated with buttercups in colors. A little girl on rustic chairs in a garden. The attitudes of the children are wonderfully artistic, and the little teacher is the picture of seriousness itself. For a girls bedroom, or study, this is an ideal picture.

"THE WINDS OF THE SEASONS." By Frank I. Robinson, illustrated by Louis K. Harlow, is another of Prang's beautiful Christmas Souvenirs. There are twelve colored illustrations representing the various seasons. The whole forms a delightful Christmas or Birthday book, and will be greatly prized by the recipient.

Lee & Shepard's Fine Art Publications.

"BABY'S KINGDOM." Designed and Illustrated by Annie F. Cox. Oblong Quarto. Full Gilt. \$3.75.

This is a new and elegant edition of one of the finest Christmas presents for very young baby that we know of. The book is an album, or diary, of events in baby's life, suitable for either sex. Here on suitably designed pages, ruled, arranged, and pictorially illustrated, are places to record baby's age, baby's weight, baby's name, baby's christening, baby's new tooth, baby's presents and, in fact, the book is intended to be a history of the reign of of King Baby, written by papa or mamma as historians to his, or her, Majesty.

Such memories of childhood will prove of inestimable value in grown up days, and will be the brightest testimony of parental care. It was a happy thought that conceived the idea of such a book, and its execution is worthy of all praise. It is finely printed on heavy tinted paper, and appropriate designs, interspersed with wise prophecies and quotations, adorn its pages. The book has a high mission as a new incentive to parental and filial love. It is certain to have a large sale during the coming holidays.

"SUMMER LAND." By Margaret Macdonald Pullman. 63 Illustrations by George T. Andrew. Oblong Quarto. Cloth. Full Gilt. \$3.75.

This fine art work is full of new full page illustrations that reproduce all the delights of the country in the sweet summer time. The artist evidently a lover of Nature in her serenest aspects, and introduces her friends to the sweetest of sylvan scenes, full of sunshine and flowers. There are views of flowing rivers, balmy woods, and romantic shores, where one wishes to idle away the long summer days. As a holiday book it will serve to keep alive

bright memories of the summers of the past, when the world was full of brightness and life free from care.

"AN OLD LOVE LETTER." Designed and Illustrated by Irene E. Jerome. Antique Cover, tied with silk. \$1.00.

This is Miss Jerome's sixth volume of a series of delicately illuminated books after the style of the old illuminated missals. The book consists of a series of quotations from the New Testament on the subject of love. There is a charming fitness between the text and the decorative borders in gold and colors. Some of the designs consist of floral traceries, which in some cases contain variously colored birds and butterflies. The cover is printed on rich antique paper and is tied with silk floss, secured to the cover by a seal. Altogether it is a gem of art and will be highly appreciated as a Holiday gift for both young and old.

"LITTLE GIANT BOAB AND HIS TALKING RAVEN TABIT." By Ingersoll Lockwood. Profusely Illustrated by Clifton Johnson. Quarto. Cloth \$2.00.

This is a delightful romance of the Baron Munchausen type, and is sure to be the inseparably companion of boys and girls who are fortunate enough to get possession of a copy. The hero is the grandson of Boabdil, the Moor, and his exploits are mixed up with disputes of a parrot and a raven, the raven being chief counselor, and the parrot chief clown. Boab, although but a boy, is possessed of great strength. His toys are made of iron. He kills a boar. He cuts a bullock's head in two parts with one blow of a sword. He lifts a lance on which three men are standing, and breaks it in two. His life is charged to the muzzle with great exploits, that would do credit to a full grown giant.

The narrative is fresh, whimsical, uncanny and thoroughly interesting, and is illustrated by 150 engravings.

"ALL AROUND THE YEAR 1891." By Pauline Sunter. \$5.00.

This is a series of twelve dainty, gilt-edged Calendars, one for each month, illustrated with colored drawings of baby figures, the whole held together with silver rings and a silver chain. It is an calendar for a girl, or young lady, and will be warmly appreciated as a Holiday gift.

"PARDS," a story of two Homeless Boys. By Effie W. Merriman. Cloth. Illustrated \$1.00.

This is a story describing how two homeless boys rose from absolute destitution, by hard work and getting rid of petty vices, to respectability. The story is a healthy one for boys. The destitution of the lads slowly disappears before a steadily rising good fortune, as the result of right conduct, and conveys an interesting lesson to the juvenile reader. The story is written with much animation and natural effect, and will prove a fresh source of pleasure and profit to the young. The Author is the Editor of "The Housekeeper" of Minneapolis, Minn.

The Cassell Publishing Company, New York.

"CHRISTMAS IN THE OLDEN TIME." By Sir Walter Scott. With designs by Fenn, Garrett, Davis, Fell, Sandham, Hassam, and Barnes. Engraved and printed under the supervision of George T. Andrew.

This sumptuous volume contains 26 fine art illustrations of Sir Walter Scott's poem bringing vividly to the mind of the reader the Christmas time of long ago the yule-tide of song and fable. Christmas was then the great leveller of rank.

"Then open wide the baron's hall
To vassal, tenant, serf and all,
Power laid his rod of rule aside
And Ceremony doffed his pride."

As an Art publication for the adornment of the parlor, or library table, the book will be prized. It is one of those universal gift books that will always have a freshness for the reader, for it celebrates the sentiment that makes Christmas a season of universal joy.

A. C. McClurg & Company, Chicago.

HENRIK IBSEN." A critical biography by Henrik Jaeger, translated from the Norwegian by William Morton Payne. Cloth. \$1.50.

The interest at present being taken among English speaking people in the writings of Henrik Ibsen makes the publication of this volume very opportune, and the admirers of the Norwegian poet will feel grateful to know that his biography has been written by a fellow countryman. The work before us is at once a biography of the poet and a critical estimate of his work, and is illustrated with pictures of Ibsen's native town, a sketch of the house he was born in, with portraits of the poet as he appeared at various periods of his life. The general reader will be interested in following the career of this romantic and poetic figure in a land where men are extremely practical, and who must toil hard to win their subsistence from grudging nature. The career of Henrik Ibsen is all the more interesting because it has for background a people blunted and worn by labor, whose heads are bowed, whose backs are bent and whose thoughts, like their gaze, is upon the soil of their mountain valleys, instead of taking flight like a bird. The book embraces an account of Ibsen's childhood and youth, his apprenticeship, his